

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CGEN, RP

SUBJ: VOTING: GUIDANCE ON OVERSEAS CITIZENS VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1975

1. LOCAL PRESS RECENTLY FEATURED STORY ON OVERSEAS CITIZENS VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1975, SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 2, 1976. CONSULAR SECTION HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM RESIDENT AMERICAN CITIZENS ASKING FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ITS BENEFITS.

2. RECENT MEETING OF LOCAL AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FEATURED TALK ON NEW LAW BY VISITING OFFICER OF US CHAMBER WHO HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING PASSAGE OF LAW. THIS PROVIDED CONSOFFS WITH USE INFORMATION NOT YET PROVIDED BY DEPT. AS TALK WAS ORIENTED TOWARD US BUSINESSMEN RESIDING ABROAD, NOT ALL QUESTIONS FACED BY CONSOFFS WERE ANSWERED, HOWEVER.

3. ONE SPECIFIC REMAINING QUESTION IS THAT OF HOW INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS WHO WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED CAN DO SO. DO THEY WRITE DIRECTLY TO LAST PLACE OF RESIDENCE OR WILL CONSOFF ASSIST THEM IN THIS REGARD?

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FULLER GUIDANCE ON PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LAW.

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